



Dementia Care for America's Heroes: Overview of Dementia Care Services and Supports for Veterans

Presented by Heather McKay, MS, OT/L, Dementia Care Specialist

Part of "Hospice and End-of-Life" presentation for The Governor's Working Group on Veterans,
Service Members, and their Families

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Dementia: Current Trends & Future Directions



A Growing Need

- **160,000 North Carolinians** are living with Alzheimer's disease today
- **210,000 by 2025**
- **By 2030**, the segment of the U.S. population age **65 and older** will increase substantially, and the projected 74 million older Americans will make up over **20 percent of the total population** (up from 14 percent in 2012).
- In 2014, **3,246 deaths due to Alzheimer's in NC** (about 33 people in 100,000)
- Now one of the top 5 causes of death

Dementia: Current Trends & Future Directions



A Growing Need

- ▶ In 2016, **caregivers** of people with Alzheimer's or other dementias provided an estimated **18.2 billion hours** of informal (that is, unpaid) assistance
- ▶ At a value of \$230.1 billion
- ▶ This is the equivalent of
 - ▶ 48 percent of the revenue of Walmart in 2016
 - ▶ nine times the total revenue of McDonald's in 2015
- ▶ **In NC, 459,000 family caregivers** (2016)
- ▶ **523 million hours of unpaid care**
- ▶ **At a value of OVER 6.6 billion dollars**
- ▶ **Increased their OWN healthcare costs 296 million dollars**



Building a Dementia-Capable System of Long Term Services and Support

Needs of People with Dementia

- ▶ Research to detect early changes
- ▶ New government policies
 - ▶ Medicare reimbursement
 - ▶ Adoption of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment
 - ▶ Social Security Compassionate Allowance
 - ▶ Healthy Brain Initiative (CDC initiative)
- ▶ Project CARE in NC
- ▶ Addressing costs
- ▶ States are revising practice guidelines for many professionals
- ▶ Emerging practice trends
 - ▶ Emphasis on early detection
 - ▶ Non-pharmacological interventions
 - ▶ Gaps in disclosure and documentation
 - ▶ Lifestyle modifications



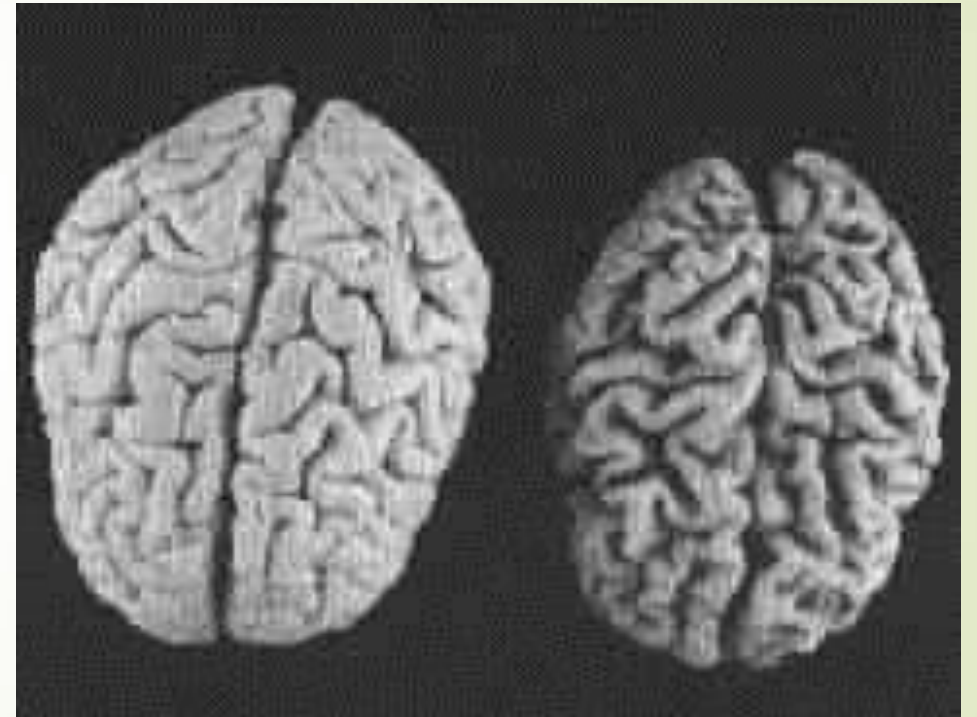
Building a Dementia-Capable System of Long Term Services and Support


Needs of Caregivers

- ▶ Dementia care takes training and collaborative problem solving
- ▶ Families need professional partners
- ▶ Discuss the progression and stages of the disease to match “right care at the right time”
- ▶ Consider the use of medications
- ▶ Refer to community resources
- ▶ Goals of care
- ▶ Promote healthy living
- ▶ Refer to clinical studies
 - ▶ Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch
- ▶ Safety Issues
 - ▶ Driving, wandering, firearms, fire hazards, etc.
 - ▶ Recommend medical identification
 - ▶ Medic Alert + Safe Return
 - ▶ www.medicalert.org/safereturn

A Toolbox of Dementia Care Education for Families and Professionals

- Topics
 - The ABC's of Dementia
 - Disease Progression in 5 Stages
 - Building Hands-On Skills for Caregiving
 - Communication When Words Don't Work
 - Activities to Make Days Meaningful
 - How to Maintain YOUR Brain





Connect with Social and Community Support

Care for Veterans throughout the VA

- home-based primary care
- homemaker and home health aide
- respite care
- adult day programs
- outpatient clinic
- inpatient hospital
- nursing home
- palliative care and hospice

Support for Caregivers is an essential part of these services

- Turn to the VA website for many valuable resources
- *Now Available* Workbook with evidence-based information
 - Practical tips for home safety for caregivers
 - Includes itemized list to take to the store
 - Easy to read with helpful illustrations
- https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/alzheimers_and_dementia_care.asp

Dementia Care for America's Heroes

Check out dementia care
training designed by
Veterans for Veterans and
their families

Developed in partnership with:

National Association of State
Veterans Homes

Armed Forces Veterans' Homes
Foundation

AMVETS Service Foundation

Air Force Sergeants' Association

Features family caregivers in the
Long Island State Veterans
Home

2015 National Caregiver Friendly
Award





Frequently Asked Questions

- **QUESTION:** *Where can I find basic information about dementia for Veterans and families?*
- **ANSWER:** Go to the **Veterans Health Library (VHL)** www.veteranshealthlibrary.org, and **Search for “Dementia”**

- **QUESTION:** *What are some resources for Dementia Caregiver Support?*
- **ANSWER:** VA Caregiver Support Website: www.caregiver.va.gov
 - VA Caregiver Support Line: 1-855-260-3274
 - VHA GEC Shared Decision Making Guide: www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Shared_Decision_Making.asp
 - VHA Office of Rural Health Dementia Caregiver Video Series (22 short videos): www.ruralhealth.va.gov/vets/resources.asp
 - HHS Alzheimer's Website: www.alzheimers.gov
 - National Institute on Aging (NIA) Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center (ADEAR): www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers
 - U.S. Administration on Aging Eldercare Locator: 1-800-677-1116; www.eldercare.gov

Frequently Asked Questions



- **QUESTION:** *Where can I find basic information about dementia supports for people living in NC?*
- **ANSWER:** Connect with your local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association <http://www.alz.org/nc/>
- AND Alzheimer's North Carolina, Inc. <http://www.alznc.org/>

- **QUESTION:** How can I learn more about our state's Alzheimer's Plan?
- **ANSWER:** You can read the plan named "Dementia Capable North Carolina" just visit https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Dementia_Capable_NC.pdf